

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JERUSA 00815 211619Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----072566 211623Z /50

O 211525Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0563
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 0815

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, UNSC, IS, LE
SUBJECT: ISRAELIS SUGGEST UN FORCE AT FIVE LOCATIONS IN SOUTHERN
LEBANON

1. UN SOURCE HAS JUST CALLED TO TELL US THAT IDF (COL.
LEVINSON) INFORMED UNTSO 1530 LOCAL MARCH 21 THAT GOI READY TO OFFER
"ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE" TO UN FORCES TO ALLOW UN OBSERVERS
TO MOVE INTO "FORWARD EDGE OF BATTLE" AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
LEVINSON SPECIFIED THESE LOCATIONS AS CITY OF TYRE, THREE
BRIDGES OVER LITANI, AND BEAUFORT CASTLE. OUR SOURCE NOTED
THAT PALESTINIANS OF COURSE ARE STILL HOLDING TYRE AND
BEAUFORT CASTLE AND TOLD US THAT IDF MAY NOT PHYSICALLY
CONTROL SOUTHERN END OF LITANI BRIDGES.

2. AS SIILASVUO AND ERSKINE NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN FROM
BEIRUT UNTIL EARLY EVENING. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT UNTSO
IS NOT IN A POSITION TO ACT ON IDF OFFER IMMEDIATELY. PRESUMABLY
SIILASVUO WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH UNNY FOR INSTRUCTIONS.
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ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, UNTSO COULD HD VANGUARD
OF NEW UN OBSERVERS IN NAQUORA BY EVENING MARCH 22
AND WOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE UP NORTH SOON THEREAFTER
IF NEW YORK AGREES.

3. COMMENT: THIS ISRAELI OFFER STRIKES US AS NOT

EXACTLY THE ANSWER TO A MAIDEN'S PRAYER AS IT
CHALLENGES THE UN TO PUT ITS FORCES IN THE THICK OF
CURRENT TENSION INCLUDING AREAS NOT CONTROLLED BY IDF. ON
OTHER HAND, IT COULD BE SEEN AS SIGN THAT GOI IS ACCEPT-
ING IN PRINCIPLE, UN PEACEKEEPING PRESENCE UNDER TERMS OF
UN RESOLUTION 425 WITHOUT THE CEASEFIRE PRE-CONDITION.
NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, PROPOSALS (BID), INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JERUSA00815
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780124-0645
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780344/aaaabkoc.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ead560c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3258881
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELIS SUGGEST UN FORCE AT FIVE LOCATIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON
TAGS: MARR, IS, LE, UNSC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ead560c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014